Food Processing Industries in Rural and Tribal Areas

1767. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of food processing industries set up by Government in the rural and tribal areas during the last three years;

(b) how much quantity of food and vegetables have been saved from getting rotten up by the conscious effort of Government;

(c) what is the allocation of Government for tribal areas for food processing for the current year;

(d) the figures, State-wise; and

(e) what are the commodities/fruits/vegetables that are processed in rural areas in the current year by Government, details thereof, area-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) to (e) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries does not set up any food processing units on its own. Its role is to promote the growth of the sector. Through its plan schemes, the Ministry provides assistance for setting up, expansion and modernisation of food processing units.

The growth of food processing industries results in value addition to the producer and reduces wastage.

While there is no specific allocation for tribal areas, enhanced quantum of assistance is given to Integrated Tribal Development Project areas. Financial assistance in the form of grant for projects of these areas is available upto 33-1/3% of the cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works subject to a maximum of Rs. 75 lakhs.

With assistance of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, many commodities including fruits and vegetables have been taken up for processing by various private enterprises. NGOs, both in rural and urban areas.